



# 1087<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Pacific Coast Numismatic Society

8:00PM Wednesday November 22, 2006  
Room 370, Building C, Fort Mason  
San Francisco, California

**Turkeys**  
*Everyone!*

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Pacific Coast Numismatic Society  
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Bulletin Editor: Michael Wehner

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Yes, this month's meeting is the day before Thanksgiving again. As we do not have a scheduled speaker, we are continuing our Thanksgiving tradition started last year. Bring your "Turkey" coins. This can be interpreted anyway you wish. Suggested by Phil Nordin as those coins that you thought were better than they turned out to be, it could something else entirely. Perhaps a coin from Turkey? Or one with a turkey on it? Have some fun with this extended show and tell.

**1086<sup>th</sup> meeting. October 25, 2006: The Final Blow, 2500 Years of Countermarks** *Steve Huston* (reviewed by *Herb Miles*)

Steve Huston presented a very fine program on countermarks on coins and tokens (The Final Blow, 2500 Years of Countermarks) during October! Although countermarks have been around for centuries, how does one classify them, idle hands, revalued money? They depend on the underlying coin to be truly classified as a countermark because if the host is obliterated, you have a new piece, not one that has a new value.

Does a countermark mean the coin or token is automatically real? No, no and no! It could be contemporary with the minting of the piece or much later, and counterfeits have been countermarked.

A primary reason to countermark a piece is to allow circulation of a foreign piece, such as the U.S. Trade dollar in China. These countermarks also vouched for the soundness of the piece and allowed continued circulation as each merchant tested the fineness or value of the piece.

Inflation has caused many nations to countermark their own pieces, sometimes revaluing to higher denominations so they would continue to circulate and sometimes even lowering the value with a countermark.

Steve's system of classification included twelve descriptions ranging from, authorizing circulation of a foreign piece to regulating a coin's official value to testing the fineness or content or verifying a coin's value. Even defacement was included in this system and, of course, the unknown, since we will never know why some pieces were countermarked.

A very fine presentation, which can also be read for better understanding in the Society's current publication of "Papers 2005-2006."

**Exhibits (September 2006).** (reported by *Herb Miles*)

*Gordon Donnell* brought to share a 2 ½ gold piece "love token" with PTM inscribed and a Colorado quarter with a counterstamp.

*David Spieler* exhibited his Smithsonian Coin Set and the new San Francisco Mint commemorative proof \$5 gold piece.

*Whalen* brought a Grant Death Medal, silver rinsed, but containing no silver, obverse designed by George Morgan or dollar fame, reverse by Barber, showing the distinct differences in design capabilities of the two minters, and a ½ Guinea gold piece, so named because the gold was found and mined in Guinea Africa!

*Daniel Feldman* exhibited his Tokyo Olympic coin and medal set, including a gold piece.

*Herb Miles* brought a counterstamped U.S. Large Cent inscribed "Vote the Land Free" from one of the 1840s presidential campaigns where the admittance of new states turned on whether they would be admitted as free states, i.e., without allowing slavery or slave states.

*Michael Wehner* brought an assortment of rare San Francisco 19<sup>th</sup> century advertising notes, Josieah LeCount \$10, T. R. Church, Goldman's Wedding, Tipped Boots, Gold Medal, interesting early paper pieces.



**Raffle (October 2006)** (*Elliot Wehner*, raffle chairman)

A Mexican Onza silver round to *Gordon Donnell*

PCNS counterstamped piece also to *Gordon*

An English medalet with Queen Victoria won by *Ed Treuting*

An encased state quarter promoting the 2007 Milwaukee ANA show also to *Ed Treuting*

A Mouse pad with a Costa Rican Coin went to *Whalen*

A PPIE opening day badge also to *Whalen*

**Tentative 2006 future programs**

December: Holiday potluck party

January: Jerry Schimmel

February: How about you?

Please contact Michael Wehner if you would like to speak in 2006 or 2007 at (415) 928-4469 or [mf\\_wehner@yahoo.com](mailto:mf_wehner@yahoo.com)

**Granite Lady Commemorative Coins now available!**

Ordering closes December 1, so if you want one, you better do it now! See [usmint.gov](http://usmint.gov) or call 1-800-USA-MINT. Note that the surcharges benefit the reconstruction of the Granite Lady and a planned museum in San Francisco.

**Publication of 2005-2006**

Copies of the most recent PCNS publication with the entries from this year's papers contest have been mailed. If you have not received it please contact the Society.

**New Member**

Please welcome Jeremiah Kagin to the Society!